

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed March 7, 2002. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

A. Abstract Objections

The abstract of the disclosure has been objected to because of the inclusion of legal terminology. Through this response, all such legal language has been removed.

B. Claim Objections

Claims 11, 15, and 17 have been objected to for various informalities. Each of these informalities has been corrected through this response.

C. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)**1. Statement of the Rejection**

Claims 1-7, 10, 11, 14-17, and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Tange (U.S. Pat. No. 6,304,741).

The rejection states that Tange discloses Applicant's invention as recited in the above-identified claims. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

2. Discussion of the Rejection

Affidavits from the inventors under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 have been submitted along with the present Response that identify that the claimed invention was reduced to practice prior to the July 10, 2000 filing date of Tange. In view of these affidavits,

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection is moot. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

D. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

1. Rejection of Claims 8, 12, and 18

a) Statement of Rejection

Claims 8, 12, and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tange in view of Isogai (U.S. Pat. No. 5,950,060).

The rejection alleges that Tange discloses Applicant's invention substantially as claimed with the exception of internal heating elements comprising tungsten filament halogen lamps. The rejection concludes, however, that in view of the Isogai disclosure, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to provide such lamps in the Tange device. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

b) Discussion of the Rejection

As identified above in reference to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102, Tange is not prior art as to Applicant's claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is moot and that the rejection should be withdrawn.

2. Rejection of Claims 9, 13, and 19**a) Statement of the Rejection**

Claims 9, 13, and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tange in view of Ciaschi (U.S. Pat. No. 6,304,740).

The rejection alleges that Tange discloses Applicant's invention substantially as claimed with the exception of a second heating roller external to and in contact with the pressure roller. The rejection concludes, however, that in view of the Ciaschi disclosure, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to provide such a second heating roller in the Tange device. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

b) Discussion of the Rejection

As identified above in reference to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102, Tange is not prior art as to Applicant's claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is moot and that the rejection should be withdrawn.

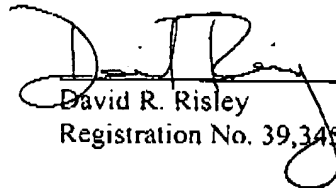
E. Canceled Claims

As identified above, claims 2, 14, 15 and 20 have been canceled from the application through this response without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to present these canceled claims, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequently.

CONCLUSION

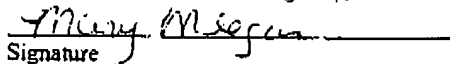
In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231, on July 12, 2003.


Signature

ANNOTATED VERSION OF MODIFIED CLAIMS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The following claims have been amended by deleting the bracketed ("[]") portions and adding the underlined ("___") portions.

1. (Once Amended) A fusing system for fusing toner to a recording medium, comprising:

a fuser roller including a hollow tube and an internal heating element;

a pressure roller in contact with the fuser roller; and

a heating roller external to and in contact with one of the fuser and the pressure rollers.

9. (Once Amended) The system of claim [1] 6, further comprising a second heating roller external to and in contact with the pressure roller.

11. (Once Amended) The system of claim [11] 10, wherein the pressure roller comprises a hollow tube and an internal heating element.

12. (Once Amended) The system of claim [11] 10, wherein the internal heating elements comprise tungsten filament halogen lamps.

13. (Once Amended) The system of claim [11] 10, further comprising a second heating roller external to and being in contact with the pressure roller.

17. (Once Amended) The device of claim [17] 16, wherein the pressure roller comprises a hollow tube and an internal heating element.

18. (Once Amended) The device of claim [17] 16, wherein the internal heating elements comprise tungsten filament halogen lamps.

19. (Once Amended) The [system] device of claim [17] 16, further comprising a second heating roller external to and being in contact with the pressure roller.

ANNOTATED VERSION OF MODIFIED
TITLE/SPECIFICATION/ABSTRACT TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The following excerpts of the specification have been amended by deleting the bracketed (" []") portions and adding the underlined (" __ ") portions.

The present disclosure relates to a fusing system for fusing toner to a recording medium. The system [comprises] includes a fuser roller, a pressure roller in contact with the fuser roller, and an external heating roller. In addition, the disclosure relates to a method for heating a fuser roller of a fusing system. The method [comprises] includes the steps of providing an external heating roller, contacting an outer surface of the fuser roller with the external heating roller, heating the external heating roller, and rotating the external heating roller and the fuser roller such that heat is transferred from the external heating roller to the fuser roller.